

Democratic leadership has indicated that they will allow votes on key provisions and allow the votes on such proposals, the chips to fall where they may.

I am confident with a wide range of choices that we will be able to have a longer, stronger prohibition from the congressional lobby revolving door and independent oversight. I hope that Members from both sides of the aisle will seize this opportunity to strengthen our ethics framework.

THE HOUSE BUDGET RAISES TAXES AND SPENDING AT UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today the Democrat majority is going to bring the House budget resolution to the floor. Last month when they passed the budget resolution, it was the largest tax increase in American history. Today they are bringing a budget resolution to the floor that is slightly an improvement: It is the second largest tax increase in American history. And the only thing that is separating this budget from being the largest tax increase in American history is what they call the "tax trigger," and under their tax trigger, if they actually get to spend all of the money they are hoping to spend, then the surpluses will not materialize and no taxes will be spared and it will yet again become the largest tax increase in American history.

This budget is unprecedented in its scope of its ability to tax and spend. The highest levels of taxes we have ever seen in this country and the highest levels of spending. That is not a way to balance the budget and set our fiscal house in order. We should vote against this budget, which raises taxes and raises spending at unprecedented levels.

ALTMIRE-UDALL AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1585

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, last night the House adopted the Altmire-Udall amendment to provide military families with very simple but much needed support while loved ones are away on combat duty.

Under the amendment that was agreed to, a worker can take family and medical leave to deal with the issues that arise as a result of a spouse, parent, or child's deployment to a combat zone like Iraq or Afghanistan. Under this amendment family members can use the leave to take care of issues like making legal and financial arrangements and making child care arrangements or other family obliga-

tions that arise and double when family members are on active duty deployments.

Supporting the troops is more than a bumper sticker. We must support the troops with all of the support that they need so their families can continue to function during the difficult times of deployment. These deployments and extended tours are not easy on families, and two-parent households can suddenly become a single-parent household and one parent is left alone to deal with paying the bills, going to the bank, picking up the kids from school, watching the kids, providing emotional support to the rest of the family. You have got to deal with these predeployment preparations.

This amendment is a good amendment. I hope that the House will support it with the passage of the legislation. Last year, tragically, it was thrown out in the conference committee and was given no consideration by the majority party of the last Congress.

AMERICANS' LUST FOR NARCOTICS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the border war is increasingly more violent because of the drug cartels seizing control of areas in Mexico to manufacture drugs.

According to the Associated Press, President Calderon has called out the Mexican military to take out the drug smugglers. But some say the drug cartels have more money and outgun even the military. Recently, seven journalists reporting on the "drug war" have been murdered, the second most dangerous place for a reporter in the world next to Iraq. Thousands of Mexican citizens have been killed in the violence.

But the problem is not just in Mexico. As long as the United States does not protect our borders, the drug barons will continue to ship those drugs to America.

Some estimate the cartels make between \$10 and \$30 billion a year shipping that cancer to America.

But the problem has a third ingredient. It is not enough for the military to control the violence in Mexico. It is not enough for us to secure our borders. But the violence will continue until the American consumers curb their lustful appetite for narcotics.

And that's just the way it is.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING WAR

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in 2002 this House gave the President a

blank check to go to war. He has gone to war on a very, very shaky basis in Iraq.

Last night, with 10 minutes' debate, we extended the presidential blank check to Iran.

Every morning as I come into my office, I pass the pictures of 75 members of the military from Washington State who have died. How many more are going to die in the war in Iran? We need more than 10 minutes to debate that.

When this country went to war in Vietnam and we extended the war to bombing Cambodia, there was no debate on this floor about that issue. There should be debate, and the President should have a vote of the Congress. They left off the roof with that escalation in Vietnam. They'll do it again if they don't have the support of the Congress.

HOUSE LEADERSHIP BENDING THE RULES TO PASS EGREGIOUS TAX-AND-SPEND POLICIES

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, though I am only in my fifth month of service in this Chamber, I have developed a deep admiration and respect for the men and women in this body. But, frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the new House leadership has been inflicted with a severe case of amnesia.

In March of 2005, the then Democratic minority in the House released a report accusing the then Republican majority leadership of abusing their power through parliamentary tactics designed to suppress dissent. The same leadership that published that report over 2 years ago pledged, at the beginning of this very year, to run the "most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress" in history.

Yesterday these leaders attempted to change a 185-year-old House rule to dramatically increase taxes and government spending against the will of the minority party and the American people. Is this really the way to run the self-proclaimed most honest and most open Congress in America's history?

While House leadership may suffer from amnesia, the American people most certainly do not, and bending the rules to pass egregious tax-and-spend policies will not stand in this people's House.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM: AMERICA'S FRONT DOOR

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to debate and vote on the Defense bill. And I stand today to talk about a different issue. About an offense. An offense that celebrates the greatness of America.

I join today with Representative JON PORTER, my cochair for the Congressional Tourism and Travel Caucus. What we want to point out is that the greatest strengths of America lie in its land and its people and the best way to know that is to get out and about, or be a tourist.

One doesn't have to go far. They can be in their own community. We will also see many people from other parts of the world coming to the United States this summer. And our issue is to make awareness of this. Reach out. Thank people who are in the tourism industry, whether it is a bus driver or an airplane pilot or a waitress in a restaurant. Celebrate the greatness of America. Look at this building, this town, this great city, the great people that have built the history of this town.

Tourism is everywhere, and tourism is the greatest asset America has to expose.

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NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) celebrating America, and that's great news. There are a lot of things that challenge us as a country, but there are some great things happening. Mr. FARR and I are cochairmen of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, and we are here today to talk about National Tourism Week.

I represent the great State of Nevada, where we have about 45 million visitors a year to our communities. But more importantly, the tour and travel industry in this country represents number one, two and three in every economy across the United States of America. Seven hundred billion dollars annually is spent on tour and travel, and that's about \$109 billion in tax revenues. That's \$22,000 a second, \$1.3 million a minute, \$80 million an hour, and \$1.9 billion a day is spent on tour and travel in the United States. It is the largest employer in the country, with 7.5 million jobs. International spending is \$108 billion.

I would like to recognize, for all those communities, and all those folks that represent the tour and travel industry how important it is to our economy, but also how important is to the world to share in this great America.

HOUSE WORKS IN STRONG BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day today, this House will send our military a strong mes-

sage, that we are going to provide them the equipment and the benefits that they so desperately need and deserve as they continue to fight two different wars in Iraq, and certainly in Afghanistan.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, will help protect our troops on the battlefield by providing \$4 billion for special vehicles, transportation, that is going to be used in these two wars.

At a time when our equipment is being worn out, the legislation also creates a Defense Readiness Production Board that will identify serious readiness issues and will then allow the board to address those issues through funds that are placed in a Strategic Readiness Funds.

In this House, we certainly have differences on how to proceed in Iraq, but we are united in ensuring that our troops are taken care of, both on the battlefield and here at home.

Let's support this bill today.

MARIETTA

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Marietta, Georgia on being named one of the Nation's top best communities. The National Civic League has designated Marietta as an All-American city for its exemplary and innovative work to strengthen the community through citizen participation.

Marietta was recognized for several programs that cut to the heart of the city's commitment to improving the lives of its residents. The Marietta Reads program helps children develop critical literary skills. The M-STAR program helps reduce crime. And the Marietta Revitalization Program helps to create affordable housing and foster safe communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous and well-deserved honor, as the citizens of Marietta have put their hearts and souls into strengthening our community. In fact, Marietta is only the fourth Georgia city to ever achieve this distinction in its 57-year history.

We all know that when our friends and neighbors come together for the common good, something special happens in our cities. Schools improve, the economy is bolstered, and our streets are safer. I am incredibly proud that Marietta is leading the way on these important initiatives. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city of Marietta, its Mayor, Bill Dunaway, its members of Council, and especially my councilman, Van Pearlberg.

ROTELLA INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to rise today in honor of the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School in Waterbury, Connecticut, which recently received the Ronald Simpson Deserved Merit Award. This award, considered the highest recognition for magnet schools in the Nation, is given to only one school a year for its exceptional academic standards and achievements.

The Rotella School is a dynamic learning community of 600 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Rotella serves urban and suburban students who represent a diverse group of backgrounds from around Waterbury. Its unique, art-based curriculum challenges students to excel, and encourages them to express themselves through arts.

Students who are exposed to the arts have higher test scores, better school attendance and increased self-discipline. Rotella is a testament to the power of arts in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to stand here today in recognition of Rotella, its administrators, its students for their contribution to our community. They are truly an inspiration to Waterbury. I also commend Rotella's principal, Gina Calabrese, for outstanding work at Rotella and receiving this distinguished award.

CARSON FARIS, RN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we passed a resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week. While AmeriCorps' particular design provides a tuition reward, true volunteering comes with the expectation of nothing in return.

A woman from my hometown of Ocala, Florida so embodies pure selflessness that I would like to praise her today publicly.

Carson Faris is a registered nurse and a certified occupational health nurse specialist with E-One. However, her caregiving nature does not end there. Nurse Faris mentors addicted women through the rocky path of recovery. Further, in addition to her own 10 pets, she shelters at-risk cats and serves on the board of directors for the Humane Society of Marion County and volunteers at the animal shelter. Also, she serves as an advisory board member for the Marion County unit of the Florida Blood Centers. Oh, and by the way, she is the treasurer of the Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Nurse Faris shines as a beacon of true volunteerism.

PRaising EOSINOPHIL AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION

(Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)